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The Commission of SCDDSN will govern with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than internal preoccupation, (b) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (c) clear distinction of commission and state director roles, (d) collective rather than individual decisions, (e) future rather than past or present, and (f) proactivity rather than reactivity. The commission will:

1. Deliberate in many voices, but speak in one to the state director by approving policy and by passing motions.
2. Cultivate a sense of group responsibility for excellence in governing, initiating commission policy, not reacting to staff initiatives, utilizing individual commission expertise to enhance commission governance but not substituting individual judgments for commission values.
3. Direct, control and inspire the SCDDSN through broad policies reflecting commission values that focus on long term impacts rather than administrative means of attaining those effects.
4. Enforce upon itself the discipline needed to govern with excellence:
  - a. In matters such as attendance, preparation, and policy governance principles to include commission training
  - b. By allowing no officer, individual, or committee to hinder the fulfillment of its policy governance process
  - c. By monitoring its process and performance at every meeting, comparing commission activity to commission policies.

The Commission is appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and operates under the authority of the South Carolina Mental Retardation, Related Disabilities, Head Injuries, and Spinal Cord Injuries Act of 1993. The commission will:

1. Approve and adopt Bylaws to regulate its rules and procedures.
2. Establish policies that govern all department directives to include:
  - a. An “Ends” policy – what good for which recipients at what cost
  - b. A “Governance Process” policy – how the commission functions
  - c. A “Commission-Staff Linkage/Delegation” policy
  - d. An “Executive Limitation” policy to insure ethics and prudence
  - e. Other global policies required, without redundancy.

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John C. Vaughn  
Vice Chairman  
(Originator)

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W. Robert Harrell  
Chairman  
(Approved)